

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 896

Recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for primary lateral sclerosis, supporting the goals and ideals of the Hardy Brown Primary Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

Mr. BACA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for primary lateral sclerosis, supporting the goals and ideals of the Hardy Brown Primary Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas primary lateral sclerosis (PLS) is a rare neuromuscular disorder characterized by progressive muscle spasticity and weakness in the voluntary muscles;

Whereas PLS belongs to a group of disorders known as motor neuron diseases. Motor neuron diseases develop when the nerve cells that control voluntary muscle movement degenerate and die, causing spasticity and weakness in the muscles they control;

Whereas Hardy Brown is the co-publisher of the Black Voice News, a weekly newspaper that fights against social injustice in the Inland Empire in California, has worked tirelessly to raise funds for research for ALS “Lou Gehrig’s disease” which is a fatal motor neuron disease, and is now diagnosed with primary lateral sclerosis;

Whereas the onset of PLS usually occurs after age 50. Symptoms may include difficulty with balance, weakness and stiffness in the legs, and clumsiness. Other symptoms may include spasticity (sudden, involuntary muscle spasms) in the hands, feet, or legs; foot dragging, and speech problems due to involvement of the facial muscles;

Whereas primary lateral sclerosis affects individual people in different ways, and as a result, treatment programs will vary;

Whereas there currently is no cure for primary lateral sclerosis, nor a way to slow or reverse the progressive disability of this disorder;

Whereas the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation is a volunteer-managed and operated non-profit organization devoted to finding the causes and cures for two groups of neurodegenerative disorders called Spastic Paraplegia (Hereditary and Apparently Sporadic) and Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS);

Whereas the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health conducts a broad range of research on neuromuscular disorders such as PLS. This research is aimed at developing techniques to diagnose, treat, prevent, and ultimately cure these devastating diseases;

Whereas “Hardy Brown disease” would be an appropriate  
eponym for primary lateral sclerosis disease; and

Whereas in conjunction with Black History Month, the month  
of February of 2008 would be an appropriate time to rec-  
ognize Hardy Brown Primary Lateral Sclerosis Aware-  
ness Month in order to educate communities across the  
Nation about primary lateral sclerosis and the need for  
research funding, accurate diagnosis, and effective treat-  
ments: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes the need to pursue research into  
3       the causes, treatment, and an eventual cure for pri-  
4       mary lateral sclerosis;

5               (2) commends those hospitals, community clin-  
6       ics, educational institutes, and other organizations  
7       that are—

8               (A) working to increase awareness of pri-  
9       mary lateral sclerosis; and

10              (B) conducting research for methods to  
11       help patients suffering from primary lateral  
12       sclerosis;

13              (3) congratulates the work of the Spastic Para-  
14       plegia Foundation for its great efforts to educate,  
15       support, and provide hope for individuals who suffer  
16       from primary lateral sclerosis, while funding re-  
17       search to help find a cure for this disorder;

1           (4) supports the designation of an appropriate  
2       time to recognize “Hardy Brown Primary Lateral  
3       Sclerosis Awareness Month”; and

4           (5) calls upon the people of the United States  
5       to observe the month with appropriate programs and  
6       activities.

